

MICHIGAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES September 28, 2007

***** APPROVED November 16, 2007 *****

Members Present:

Candace Cowling
Jerry Dorsey, IV
Princella Graham
Honorable Amy Krause, Chair
Mary Beth Kur
Honorable Nathaniel C. Perry, III
Honorable Edward Sosnick

Staff Present:

Phiang Aldrich
Patsy Baker
Debi Cain, Executive Director
Celestine Colton
Julie Giddings

Sarah Heuser
Josie Jubb, Board Secretary
Mary Lovik
Karen Porter
Joyce Wright

Guests:

MaryLynn Falbe, Domestic Assault Shelter Coalition, Three Rivers
Kathy Hagenian, MCADSV
Melissa Horste, Senator Levin's Office
Mary Keefe, MCADSV
Emma Peterson, YWCA/Interim House Metro Detroit
Tom Robertson, PAAM

Welcome and Introductions

Chair A. Krause convened the September 28, 2007 Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDVPTB) meeting at the DHS, Grand Tower Building in Lansing, MI, at 10:15 a.m. Introductions were made and a welcome extended to guests and newly appointed Board member Jerry Dorsey.

BOARD CONSENT

Review of agenda; approval of June 29, 2007 Board meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by E. Sosnick to approve the June 29, 2007 agenda and to approve the June 29, 2007 meeting minutes. Seconded by M. Kur. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Krause pointed out the new DHS organizational chart. A. Krause would like to set up a meeting with a couple of the Board members and the Executive staff at DHS in the near future.

A. Krause told Board members that the scheduling of 2008 Board meeting dates will be taking place very soon and to expect an email requesting dates. The Board agreed that quarterly meetings on Fridays is still the preferred schedule.

A. Krause wanted to thank P. Graham for buying lunch for Board, staff and guests for today's meeting.

MONITORING TO ASSURE ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

The Governance Process and Policy Review

Executive Limitations:

General Executive Director Constraint; Budgeting; State Policy Leadership

The Board reviewed and approved D. Cain's General Executive Director Constraint; Budgeting; State Policy Leadership reports.

MOTION: Moved by E. Sosnick to accept the General Executive Director Constraint; Budgeting; State Policy Leadership. Seconded by M. Kur. Motion carried.

Governance Process:

Governing Style; Board Job Description; Annual Board Planning Cycle

The Board reviewed the policies. No motion required.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – GENERAL OVERVIEW OF WORK TO DATE

Updates from D. Cain in regard to the funding received. P. Baker gave a presentation outlining all of the budget changes for fiscal year 2008. D. Cain gave a breakdown of changes in grant awards to local programs (see attached list). There are large cuts for fiscal year 08; D. Cain again detailed the cuts based on the handout provided to Board members at the June 29, 2007 Board meeting (attached).

D. Cain suggested a concerted effort by MDVPTB to locate alternate sources of funding.

MOTION: Moved by N. Perry to approve budget as submitted by P. Baker as well as to encourage staff to look into other funding sources and to support capacity building. Seconded by M. Beth Kur. Motion carried.

D. Cain noted the letter from OVW regarding interpretation of the VAWA 05 confidentiality provisions and direction for MDVPTB. Both federal and state solutions are being pursued. D. Cain hopes to have a more detailed status report for the November Board meeting.

Legislative Review

M. Lovik reviewed SB158. In prior legislative sessions, the Board responded to predecessors of this bill by recommending that a "reasonable person" standard be inserted into provisions imposing criminal liability for committing acts "likely to cause harm" to a child. An open question is whether this "reasonable person" standard should be objective or subjective.

MOTION: Moved by E. Sosnick that the board support the concept that an objective reasonableness standard be inserted into the bill's definitions as an element for the prosecutor to establish, and that an affirmative defense specific to domestic violence situations be inserted that contains a subjective reasonableness standard.

- 1. Amend the relevant sections of the bill to state, "The person knowingly or intentionally commits an act that under the circumstances creates an unreasonable risk of physical harm to a child."**
 - 2. Add a new section 10 that states, "It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this section that the Defendant was a victim of domestic violence and the defendant's conduct involving the child or children was a reasonable response to that domestic violence in light of all the facts and circumstances known to the defendant at that time. The defendant shall establish this affirmative defense by a preponderance of the evidence. As used in this subsection, domestic violence means"**
- Seconded by N. Perry. Motion carried.**

Both PAAM and MCADSV representatives at the meeting expressed support of this language.

Congratulations to Chair A. Krause on receiving the State Bar of Michigan Champion of Justice award!!

S. Heuser gave a presentation of the new Teen Dating Violence website that was created to help teens and young adults recognize the signs of dating violence, stalking, sexual assault and domestic violence and how to seek help for themselves or for friends experiencing violence. Board members gave their input and feedback. There will be a news release regarding this new website. Governor Granholm has proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness month. The MDVPTB youth education packet has been translated into Spanish. The packet will also be on the main MDVPTB website and the Teen Dating Violence website in a downloadable format.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Keefe commented that MCADSV is having an open house on October 17, 2007 and people are invited to attend to learn more about the coalition.

PROCESS EVALUATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 1:15 p.m.

MOTION: Moved by M. Beth Kur to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by N. Perry. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Josie Jubb